

**HB1215\_DNR\_SUP\_ENT\_3-23-22.pdf**

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Position: FAV



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary*  
*Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary*

**Bill Number:** House Bill 1215

**Short Title:** Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing Gear

**Department's Position:** Support

**Explanation of Department's Position:**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides the following information on HB 1215, which removes restrictions on recreational fishing gear in Anne Arundel County waters and allows for commercial licensees to use archery equipment in those same waters.

Populations of invasive Northern snakeheads have increased in western shore tidal rivers and throughout the Chesapeake Bay. With the increase in those populations, there has been increased interest by both recreational and commercial harvesters to target those fish with archery equipment. Current law restricts fishing in many Anne Arundel County tidal waters to hook and line only, which is a less efficient manner of harvest for snakeheads. By increasing opportunity for harvest, recreational and commercial harvesters may suppress the burgeoning invasive population.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative and Constituent Services Director, Bunky Luffman.

# **HB1215\_Delegation\_Vote**

Uploaded by: Delegate Howard Delegate Howard

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION

March 18, 2022

Kumar Barve, Chairman  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 1215- Anne Arundel County- Natural Resources- Fishing Gear**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Anne Arundel County Delegation voted on the above bill on March 18, 2022. The vote tally  
Is attached. The Delegation voted in favor of the bill. The vote was 13 to 0 with 2 absent.  
Please consider a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,  
Mike Rogers  
Chair

**HB 1215\_CBF\_OPP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Allison Colden

Position: UNF



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 1215**

Anne Arundel County – Natural Resources – Fishing Gear

Date: March 23, 2022

Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Allison Colden, Sr. Fisheries Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** HB 1215, a bill which would allow for the establishment of commercial fisheries with archery equipment in Anne Arundel County.

Currently, recreational and commercial fishing in Anne Arundel County waters is limited in most areas to hook and line fishing. In some areas, additional gears, including eel pots, minnow traps, small scale seines (less than 50 feet) are permitted. Many of these restrictions apply to areas important for spawning of yellow perch and other species in Anne Arundel County waters.

HB 1215 alters the current law by limiting hook and line fishing restrictions to commercial fishers only, while also adding archery equipment to the list of approved commercial fishing gear. This creates significant uncertainty with respect to the permissible gears for use by recreational anglers in Anne Arundel County. By removing recreational restrictions, HB 1215 opens up additional gear types to be used in sensitive habitat areas including nets, seines, and archery equipment.

Commercial bowfishing regulations allow for the commercial harvest of any fish species except sharks, lobsters, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrids, northern pike, muskies, bass, and snapping turtles. However, any other species of fish could be targeted commercially, even those without a fishery management plan. Expanding commercial fisheries on unregulated species is a significant concern. Without proper data collection and management in place, it is nearly impossible for fisheries managers to know the impact fisheries are having on the target species and the ecosystem.

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee amended the Senate cross-file, SB 713, to specify that bowfishing activities were specifically targeted toward invasive Northern snakeheads and that all other commercial and recreational fishing in Anne Arundel County is still subject to existing laws and regulations. With these amendments to HB 1215, CBF would be comfortable removing our opposition, but oppose HB 1215 as currently drafted.

**CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 1215.** For more information, please contact Dr. Allison Colden, Maryland Senior Fisheries Scientist at [acolden@cbf.org](mailto:acolden@cbf.org) and 443.482.2160.

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*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*